

# HF Happenings

No 507

May 2012

Who knows where this church is?

The photograph in HF Happenings 506 of the "Tin Hat" was taken at Bergville in Kwazulu-Natal. Pierre, ZS6A, thanks for your response. I hope that I will get some information from the MOTHs.

## Take Amateur Radio to the Public

16 June is National Amateur Radio Day. The SARL invites young and old to celebrate the day by taking amateur radio to the public. Talk on the air, invite some into your radio room or be daring and set up your station in a local park or shopping area. Get the word out amateur radio is fun, amateur radio is the most exciting of all scientific hobbies.

16 June is also Youth Day and we have the annual SARL Youth Sprint on that day too. If you are 25 years or younger, take part in the competition and win one of the many prizes. Take to the air between 10 and 12 local time and if you are over 25, show the young people how it is done. Full details are already on [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and were sent to all members in the May SARL Update e-mail.

Keeping with the spirit of National Amateur Radio Day, Peter Davies, ZS6IQ, will be bearing the cold and will operate from his boat "Jokerman" on the Vaal Dam near Deneysville, the location will change from time to time, The boat can be tracked on [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi) lookup the call sign ZS6IQ-9. All contacts will receive a special QSL card and will be logged on QRZ.com. 40 m will be the preferred band. Lookup ZS6IQ on qrz.com for information on the day.

## Final RTA Dates Announced

The final Radio in Action Technology symposium dates has been announced. The first event will be in the brand new auditorium recently completed on the Howard Campus in Durban on 22 July. The Cape Town RTA will be held at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Bellville on 11 August. In the Eastern Cape, the RTA will take place on 1 September at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and in Gauteng, the event will be held on 29 September at the Sentech Auditorium at Radiokop.

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





The programme features a mixture of talks, demonstrations and hands-on activities. Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, will explore how the ionosphere works and show delegates how to do their own predictions. Every one attending will receive a CD with the necessary propagation prediction software. During the presentation, Hannes will load the software on a PC and go through setting it up every step of the way.

Another interesting activity will be the building of a software defined radio interface. The necessary software will be on the RTA disc. A SDR receiver kit costing under R100 will be available for sale at each RTA. During the presentation Frik Wolff, ZS6FZ, will build the kit and show you how it operates and receives signals on the 40-metre band. There are more surprises in store. Stay tuned as more details will be in SARL News over the next few weeks. A full programme and pre-booking form will be available on the web soon.

Keep the day when the RTA comes to your area open, as it is something you do not want to miss.

## The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend in August has inspired many to register early with 32 countries and nearly 250 registered already. Although this is just over half of the countries normally attracted by the event it is slightly ahead of expectations with ten weeks to go. The weekend increases the public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for them to be preserved, promotes amateur radio and fosters international goodwill.

The event was started mainly by late Mike Dalrymple, GM4SUC, and the Ayr Amateur Radio Group in 1995 as the Northern Lighthouse Activity Weekend with stations at Scottish lighthouses. It quickly went international.

The third weekend in August coincides with the worldwide lighthouse open day organised by the Association of Lighthouse Keepers that sees public access to many of the featured lighthouses. During the weekend a group or individual sets up an amateur station at or adjacent to a lighthouse, lightship or marine beacon that is listed.

To register, complete a short online form; read the event rules and have lots of fun. We have complete statistics on past events, reports from previous years and we are on Facebook too. Visit the website at [illw.net](http://illw.net) for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend held on 18 and 19 August.

Four lighthouses from South Africa appear on the list and nothing yet from Namibia.

## Super Check Partial Database

New releases of the HF Super Check Partial (SCP) and the VHF Super Check Partial and Prefill database files are now available. From the HF release notes we learn that the file is based on more than 40 000 calls and for the RTTY file, just over 11 000 calls. That is many ac-

### June

- 2 – Feast of Shiraz and Charcuterie, Hartenberg Wine Estate; Skilpadfees, Florisbad
- 3 – 2012 Comrades Marathon
- 2 and 3 – topCar Gauteng Motor Show, Zwartkops
- 5 – World Environmental Day
- 6 – Transit of Venus
- 7 to 10 - Wacky Wine Weekend, Robertson Valley
- 9 – First Ascent Big Induna Mountain Biking Classic, Hazyview
- 15 to 17 – Cape Town Book Fair
- 16 – Youth Day
- 16 – SA Amateur Radio Day; Youth Day Contest
- 17 – Father's Day; World QRP Day
- 21 to 25 – SARL Top Band QSO Party
- 22 – Schools close
- 22 to 24 – Ham Radio 2012, Friedrichshafen
- 28 to 8 July – National Arts Festival, Grahamstown
- 29 – 8 July – East Coast Radio House and Garden Show, Durban





tive stations! To check the version of the HF SCP files you are using, look for a call beginning with "VER". Every SCP file includes the version number in the list of calls as "VERYYYYMMDD".

On the VHF side, the release version number is 20120513\_00. Only 2011 plus Jan 2012 Logs were used in building the 2012 release of the VHF file. For either HF or VHF, W9ZRX notes, "...these files are intended for use ONLY as an OPERATING AID. Their availability does not mitigate the responsibility of the user to COPY and ENTER the exchange given to them during a contest." Even with computing power applied, the contest remains a test of operator skill!

## DXpedition Costs

The enlightening presentation given by Don Greenbaum, N1DG at the recent Dayton Hamvention is now available for download on the Northern California DX Foundation's website at [www.ncdx.org](http://www.ncdx.org) (2,67 MB) - it's good food for thought.

<http://www.ncdx.org/misc/N1DG-DXpeditioncosts-Dayton2012.ppsx>

## QSL 706T

The OQRS (Online QSL Request System) for 706T is now up and running at [www.yemen2012.com/log.php](http://www.yemen2012.com/log.php), and can be used for either direct and bureau cards.

Traditional requests can be sent to UA3DX, direct (Nick Averyanov, PO Box 39, Vlasikha, Moskovskaya obl. 143010, Russia) or bureau. The entire log will be uploaded to LoTW by the end of November.

## Using the TS-590S for Digital Modes

Ian Wade, G3NRW, has released a new version of his Kenwood TS-590S Digital Quick-Start Guide. It provides guidance on getting started with several well-known digital packages and is accessible through the TS-590S Resources Page at <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/wadei/ts-590s.htm>. Scroll down to the "HOWTOs" section, then click on the link "TS-590S HOWTO: Digital QuickStart"

Ian has also made available a 30 m utilization chart, which shows where you can find the various digital modes on the 10 MHz band.

[http://homepage.ntlworld.com/wadei/30m\\_band\\_utilization.htm](http://homepage.ntlworld.com/wadei/30m_band_utilization.htm)

## More Digital Modes for Cuba

Cuban amateurs have received permission to use more digital modes on the airwaves. In addition to PSK31, QPSK31, AMTOR, PACKET and RTTY, the following have been added - Domino Contestia, Olivia, MFSK, JT65 and almost all variants of PSK. Another important step is that they have now have access to the national society's internal network using packet radio nodes and have permission to use packet gateways in cross bands.

## African DX

## African Islands

## Special Event Stations

Estonia. Eddie, ES2TT, will be active with the special event call sign YL2012USCARS, for the American Cars Fan Meeting (Saulkrasti 2012), between 1 and 4 June 2012. He will be active on

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40 - 6 metres SSB, CW and PSK, from his home in Keila, Estonia (WW Loc KO29eh). QSL via ES2TT, direct or via the Bureau. Information on Eddie's American Auto Club can be found at [www.uscars.lv/](http://www.uscars.lv/)

France. The special event station TM3FFI commemorates the agents with their secret transmitters in the Resistance of the Second World War on 26 May, 8 to 13 July and from 19 to 22 July 2012. QSL via F8JZR. See also [www.memorialjeanmoulin.fr/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=229](http://www.memorialjeanmoulin.fr/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=229)

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 28 May to 4 June 2012.

### MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

23:00 UTC 28 May to 03:00 UTC 29 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: less 250 mW; 250 mW - 1 W; 1 - 5 W; greater 5 W

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power output

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with members; 2 points per QSO with non-member W/VE stations; 4 points per QSO with non-member DX stations

Multipliers: Each state, province or country, once per band

Bonus: multiply total points by 1.25 if xmtr or receiver is homebrew; multiply total points by 1.5 if both xmtr and receiver are homebrew

Score Calculation: Total score = bonus multiplier x total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 June 2012

E-mail logs to: [n8xx@arrl.org](mailto:n8xx@arrl.org)

Mail logs to: Hank Greeb, N8XX, 5727 11 Mile Rd NE, Rockford, MI 49341, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.qsl.net/miqrpclub/contest.html>

### NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 3 June 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

### HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest

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17:30 - 18:00 UTC (40 m) and 18:00 - 18:30 UTC 1 June (80 m)

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op

Exchange: HACWG Members: RST and membership no; non-Members: RST and NM

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 16 June 2012

E-mail logs to: ha3kna@tolna.net

Mail logs to: Radio Club, 7100 Szekszard, Rakoczi u. 16., Hungary

Find rules at:

<http://radioamator.honlapites.hu/?PHPSESSID=e57dd37c356355de9489e83e42&p=1280>

10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest

00:00 UTC 2 June to 24:00 UTC 3 June

Mode: PSK31

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Individual; Club; QRP

Max power: non-QRP: 50 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Name, state, province or country and organization membership numbers

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 18 June 2012

E-mail logs to: [tentencontest@roadrunner.com](mailto:tentencontest@roadrunner.com)

Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 131 Valencia Lane, Statesville, NC 28625, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ten-ten.org/oseason/oseason.html>

DigiFest

04:00 - 12:00 UTC and 20:00 UTC 2 June to 04:00 UTC 3 June and 12:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 June

Mode: RTTY75, BPSK63, MFSK16, HELLSCHREIBER, OLIVIA

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Classes: SOAB, All Modes - low or high; SOAB, All Modes, 8 Hours - low or high; SOAB, Single Mode - low or high; Single Op Single Band, All Modes - low or high; Multi-Op Single Transmitter

Max power: High: 1 000 watts; Low: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and 4-character grid square

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 QSO point per km between stations

Multipliers: Each grid square once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 10 June 2012

E-mail logs to: [digifest\\_robot@mixw.net](mailto:digifest_robot@mixw.net)

Upload log at: [http://mixw.net/misc/DigiFest/digifest\\_log.php](http://mixw.net/misc/DigiFest/digifest_log.php)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.mixw.net/misc/DigiFest/rulese2012.html>

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

06:00 - 06:29 UTC, 06:30 - 06:59 UTC, 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 2 June

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





Mode: CW

Bands: 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO - "QRP" for 1st QSO

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 1 point per km

Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points

Submit logs by: 9 June 2012

E-mail logs to: [ru-qrp-club@mail.ru](mailto:ru-qrp-club@mail.ru)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://grp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng>

#### Maritime QSO Party

12:00 UTC 2 June to 03:00 UTC 3 June

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Fixed Single Op - CW, Phone or Mixed; Mobile/Rover; Multi-Op

Exchange: MAR: RS(T) and county; non-MAR: RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO; Bonus: 100 points per QSO with VE9MCC, VA1MCC, or VY2MCC

Multipliers: MAR: Each state, province, DXCC country once per band per mode; non-MAR: Each MAR county once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 2 July 2012

E-mail logs to: [va1mcc@rac.ca](mailto:va1mcc@rac.ca)

Mail logs to: Maritimes QSO Party, 1610 Cow Bay Rd., Cow Bay, NS B3G 1L1, Canada

Find rules at: [http://www.maritimecontestclub.com/images/2012\\_MQP\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.maritimecontestclub.com/images/2012_MQP_Rules.pdf)

#### SEANET Contest

1200Z 2 June to 1200Z 3 June

Mode: CW, Phone, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op; M/S

Exchange: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: SEANET: Each DXCC country once per band; non-SEANET: Each SEANET DXCC country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 July 2012

E-mail logs to: [contest@2012sea.net](mailto:contest@2012sea.net)

Mail logs to: SEANET Contest 2012, PO Box 8124, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46782 Kelana Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

Find rules at: <http://2012sea.net/mambo/content/view/5/12/>

IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW

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15:00 UTC 2 June to 14:59 UTC 3 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (see your national society rules)

Exchange: RST and serial no

Submit logs by: 30 June 2012

E-mail logs to: (see your national society rules)

Mail logs to: Your national society

Find rules at: Your national society web site

#### RSGB National Field Day

15:00 UTC 2 June to 15:00 UTC 3 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Open; Restricted; Low Power

Max operating hours: Open/Restricted: 24 hours

Low Power: 12 hours

Max power: non-LP: 100 watts; LP: 10 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with fixed EU stations; 3 points per QSO with fixed non-EU stations; 4 points per QSO with portable/mobile EU stations; 6 points per QSO with portable/mobile non-EU stations; Double QSO points on 160 and 10 m

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 19 June 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rnfd.shtml>

#### Alabama QSO Party

16:00 UTC 2 June to 04:00 UTC 3 June

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; M/S - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; M/M - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile Single Op - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile Single Op and Driver - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile Multi-Op - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; Rover Single Op - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; Rover M/S - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high; Rover M/M - CW, SSB or Mixed - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: AL: RS(T) and county; non-AL: RS(T) and state, province or "DX"

QSO Points: 1 points per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: AL Stations: Each state, VE province/territory once per mode; non-AL Stations: Each AL county once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 2 July 2012

E-mail logs to: [logs@alabamqso.org](mailto:logs@alabamqso.org)

Mail logs to: Jim Johnson, KC4HW, 6274 South Country Road 49, Slocomb, AL 36375-5528,  
USA





Find rules at: <http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/2012/2012Rules.pdf>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 4 June

Mode: RTTY, PSK

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 June 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml>

## Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 5 June

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 June

DRCG Long Distance RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 07:59 UTC and 16:00 - 23:59 UTC 9 June and 08:00 - 15:59 UTC 10 June

## History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 28 May 2012.

780 BC - First total solar eclipse reliably recorded by Chinese (4 June)

1070 - Roquefort cheese created in a cave near Roquefort, France (4 June)

1495 - First written record of Scotch whisky appears in the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, Friar John Cor is the distiller (1 June)

1678 - Lady Godiva rode naked through Coventry in a protest of taxes (31 May)

1848 - William Young patents the ice cream freezer (30 May)

1869 - Voting Machine patented by Thomas Edison (1 June)

1872 - Mahlon Loomis patents wireless telegraphy (30 May)

1879 - First electric railway opens at Berlin Trades Exposition (31 May)

1889 - Herminie Cadolle of France invented the first modern bra (30 May)

1896 - First car accident occurs when Henry Wells hit a bicyclist in New York City (30 May); Guglielmo Marconi patents the radio (2 June)

1900 - British troops occupy Johannesburg (31 May) and Pretoria (1 June)

1902 - Boer War ends, the Treaty of Vereeniging is signed; Britain annexes the Transvaal (31 May)

1910 - The Union of South Africa is formed from the Transvaal, Natal, Orange Free State and the Cape Province (31 May)

1910 - First roundtrip flight over the English Channel by C.S. Rolls (2 June)

1919 - Charles Strite patents the pop-up toaster (29 May)

1938 - Superman first appears in DC Comics Action Comics Series issue #1 (1 June)





1953 - Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norkay are the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest (29 May)

1961 - The Union of South Africa becomes a Republic and leaves the Commonwealth (31 May)

1962 - Oscar 2, amateur radio satellite, launched into earth orbit (1 June)

1977 - First personal computer, the Apple II, goes on sale (5 June)

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

